Claim 1 (currently amended). A process for increasing the molecular weight and/or viscosity of a ~~polyamide or a~~ polyester or a copolyester~~mer of these polymers which remain in the thermoplastic state after the process~~, which process comprises

heating in a mixer or extruder a ~~polyamide or~~ polyester or a copolyester~~mer of these polymers~~ to the melting point or up to 50°C above the melting point or 50°C to 150°C above the glass transition point of the polyester or copolyester,

with the addition of at least one aromatic dicyanate and at least one further compound selected from the group consisting of the sterically hindered hydroxyphenyl-alkyl-phosphonic esters or monoesters, diphosphonites and secondary aromatic amines,

~~to the melting point or up to 50°C above the melting point or 50°C to 150°C above the glass transition point of said polymers or copolymers~~

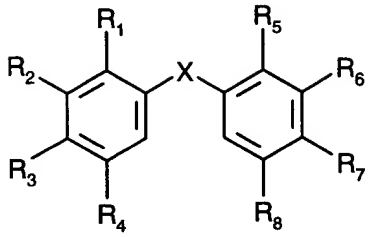
wherein the polyester or copolyester remains in the thermoplastic state after the process.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended). A process according to claim **12**, wherein at least one difunctional epoxide is additionally employed.

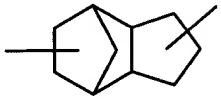
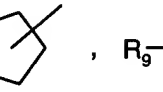
Claim 4 (currently amended). A process according to claim **1**, wherein the ~~polyamide or~~ polyester or ~~a~~ copolyester~~mer of these polymers~~ is a ~~polyamide- or polyester- or a copolymer of these polymers~~ recyclate.

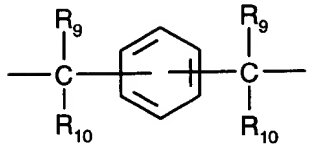
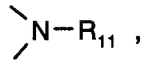
Claim 5 (original). A process according to claim **1**, wherein the aromatic dicyanate is a compound of the formula I



(I)

in which

X is a direct bond, oxygen, sulfur, -SO-, $-SO_2-$,  ,  ,

 , C_2-C_{18}alkylene, C_2-C_{18}alkenylene or  ,

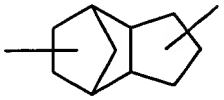
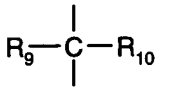
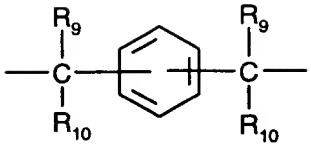
R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted phenyl; C_7-C_9phenylalkyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{25}alkoxy or -O-CN, with the proviso that at least one of the radicals R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 is -O-CN,

R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted phenyl; C_7-C_9phenylalkyl, hydroxyl, C_1-C_{25}alkoxy or -O-CN, with the proviso that at least one of the radicals R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 is -O-CN,

R_9 and R_{10} independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, trifluoromethyl or phenyl, or R_9 and R_{10}, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a C_5-C_8cycloalkylidene ring which is unsubstituted or is substituted by 1 to 3 C_1-C_4alkyls; and

R_{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_{12}alkyl.

Claim 6 (original). A process according to claim **5**, wherein

X is a direct bond, oxygen,  ,  ,  ,

C_2-C_{12}alkylene or C_2-C_{12}alkenylene,

R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, C_5-C_8cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_{18}alkoxy or -O-CN, with the proviso that at least one of the radicals R_1, R_2, R_3 or R_4 is -O-CN,

R_5, R_6, R_7 and R_8 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkyl, C_5-C_8cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_{18}alkoxy or -O-CN, with the proviso that at least one of the radicals R_5, R_6, R_7 or R_8 is -O-CN, and

R_9 and R_{10} independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1-C_8alkyl, trifluoromethyl or phenyl, or R_9 and R_{10}, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a C_5-C_6cyclo-alkylidene ring.

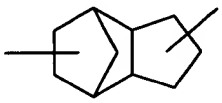
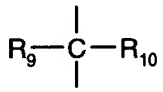
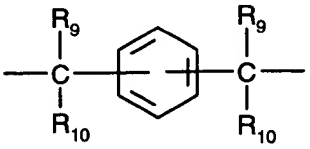
Claim 7 (original). A process according to claim **5**, wherein

R_1 and R_5 are hydrogen,

R_2, R_4, R_6 and R_8 are hydrogen or methyl, and

R_3 and R_7 are -O-CN.

Claim 8 (original). A process according to claim **5**, wherein

X is a direct bond,  ,  or  ,

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_3 is -O-CN,

R_4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_5 is hydrogen,

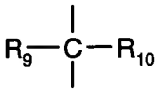
R_6 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_7 is -O-CN,

R_8 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl, and

R_9 and R_{10} independently of one another are hydrogen, methyl or trifluoromethyl.

Claim 9 (original). A process according to claim **5**, wherein

X is  ,

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen,

R_3 is -O-CN,

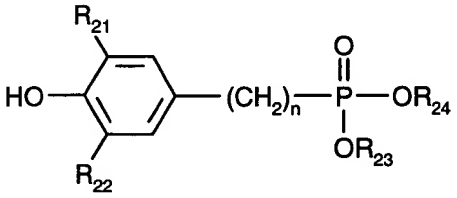
R_4, R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen,

R_7 is -O-CN,

R_8 is hydrogen, and

R_9 and R_{10} independently of one another are hydrogen or methyl.

Claim 10 (currently amended). A process according to claim **12**, wherein the ~~polyfunctional~~ further compound is a sterically hindered hydroxyphenyl-alkyl-phosphonic ester or monoester of the formula II



(II)

in which

R_{21} is isopropyl, tert-butyl, cyclohexyl or cyclohexyl which is substituted by 1 to 3 C_1-C_4alkyl groups,

R_{22} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, cyclohexyl or cyclohexyl which is substituted by 1 to 3 C_1-C_4alkyl groups,

R_{23} is C_1-C_{20}alkyl, or unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted phenyl or naphthyl,

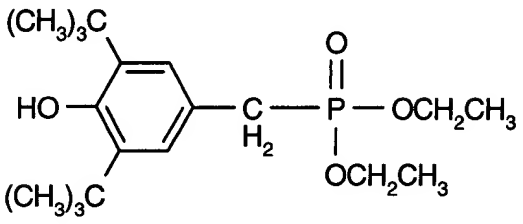
R_{24} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted phenyl or naphthyl; or is $\frac{M^{r+}}{r}$,

M^{r+} is an r-valent metal cation,

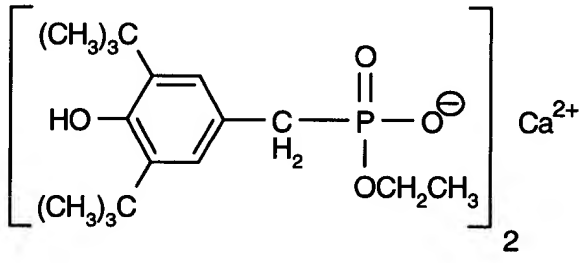
n is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and

r is 1, 2 or 3.

Claim 11 (currently amended). A process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~polyfunctional~~ further compound is a sterically hindered hydroxyphenyl-alkyl-phosphonic ester or monoester of the formula IIa or IIb

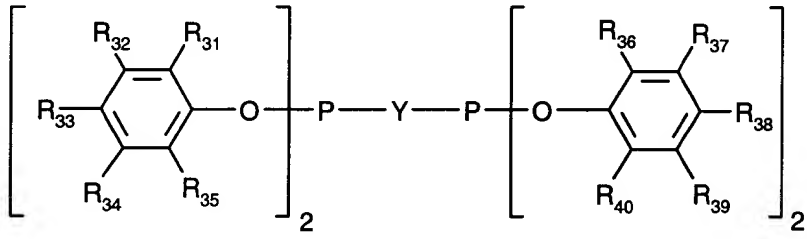


(IIa)



(IIb)

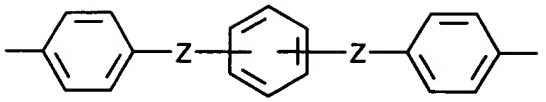
Claim 12 (currently amended). A process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~polyfunctional~~ further compound is a diphosphonite of the formula III

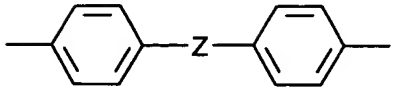


(III)

in which

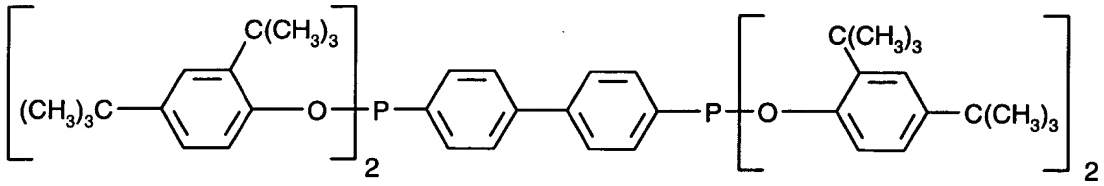
R_{31}, R_{32}, R_{33}, R_{34}, R_{35}, R_{36}, R_{37}, R_{38}, R_{39} and R_{40} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1-C_8alkyl,

Y is 1,4-phenylene, 1,3-phenylene,  or

 , and

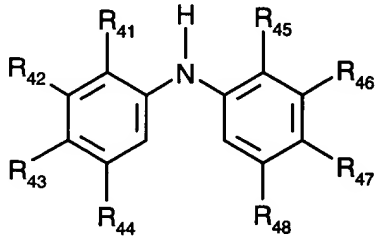
Z is a direct bond, phenylene, oxygen, sulfur, -SO-, $-SO_2-$ or  .

Claim 13 (currently amended). A process according to claim **12**, wherein the ~~polyfunctional~~ further compound is a diphosphonite of the formula IIIa



(IIIa).

Claim 14 (currently amended). A process according to claim **12**, wherein the ~~polyfunctional~~ further compound is a secondary aromatic amine of the formula IV

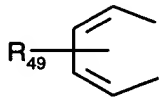


(IV)

in which

R_{41} is hydrogen or C_1-C_{25}alkyl,

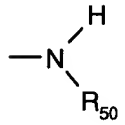
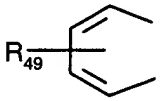
R_{42} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl or benzyl,

R_{43} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl, benzyl, α-methylbenzyl or α,α-dimethylbenzyl; or R_{42} and R_{43} together form a divalent group  ,

R_{44} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl or benzyl,

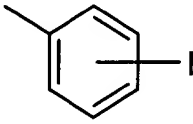
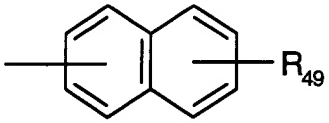
R_{45} is hydrogen or C_1-C_{25}alkyl,

R_{46} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl or benzyl,

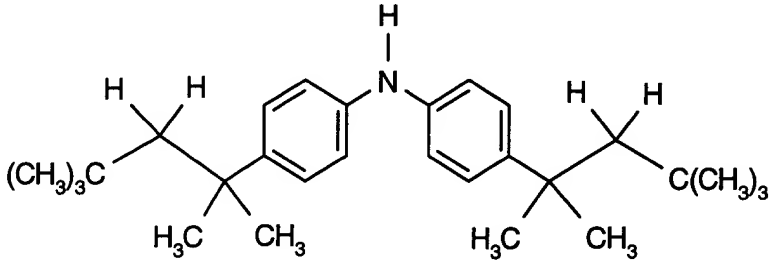
R_{47} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl, C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl, benzyl, α-methylbenzyl, α,α-dimethylbenzyl or  ; or R_{46} and R_{47} together form a divalent group  ,

R_{48} is hydrogen, C_1-C_{25}alkyl or benzyl,

R_{49} is hydrogen or C_1-C_{25}alkyl, and

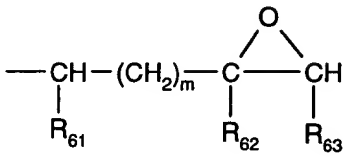
R_{50} is C_5-C_{12}cycloalkyl,  or  .

Claim 15 (currently amended). A process according to claim **12**, wherein the ~~polyfunctional~~ further compound is a secondary aromatic amine of the formula IVe



(IVe) .

Claim 16 (original). A process according to claim **3**, wherein the difunctional epoxide is a compound which contains epoxide radicals of the formula V



(V)

which are attached directly to carbon, oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur atoms and in which R_{61} and R_{63} are both hydrogen, R_{62} is hydrogen or methyl and m is 0; or in which R_{61} and R_{63} together are $-CH_2CH_2-$ or $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, R_{62} is then hydrogen and m is 0 or 1.

Claim 17 (original). A process according to claim **3**, wherein the difunctional epoxide is an epoxide of the bisphenol A diglycidyl ether or bisphenol F diglycidyl ether type.

Claim 18 (currently amended). A process according to claim **1**, wherein from 0.01 to 5 parts by weight of the aromatic dicyanate are employed per 100 parts by weight of the~~a polyamide or a~~ polyester or ~~a~~ copolyester~~mer of these polymers~~.

Claim 19 (currently amended). A process according to claim **12**, wherein from 0.01 to 5 parts by weight of the ~~polyfunctional~~ compounds selected from the group consisting of the sterically hindered hydroxyphenyl-alkyl-phosphonic esters or monoesters, diphosphonites and secondary aromatic amines are employed per 100 parts by weight of the~~a polyamide or a~~ polyester or ~~a~~ copolyester~~mer of these polymers~~.

Claim 20 (currently amended). A process according to claim **3**, wherein from 0.01 to 5 parts by weight of the difunctional epoxide are employed per 100 parts by weight of the~~a polyamide or a~~ polyester or ~~a~~ copolyester~~mer of these polymers~~.

Claim 21 (canc l d).

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (original). A process according to claim **1**, wherein the polyester is a polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate or a corresponding recyclate or copolymer thereof.

Claim 24 (currently amended). A process according to claim **1**, wherein the polyester~~mer~~ is a polybutylene terephthalate/polycarbonate blend or a blend comprising predominantly polybutylene terephthalate/polycarbonate or a corresponding recyclate or a blend of a recyclate and a virgin polymer component.

Claims 25-31 (canceled).